



U.S. Department of Justice

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District of New Hampshire*

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MEDIA RELEASE

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DEA "CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVE" TASK FORCE

**METHUEN MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL COCAINE
CONSPIRACY CONVICTION**

Re: United States v. Renzo PIMENTEL-SOTO

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and DEA Special Agent in Charge of the New England Field Division Mark R. Trouville announced that RENZO PIMENTEL-SOTO, DOB 5/20/70, formerly of Methuen, Massachusetts, was sentenced on June 17, 2004 on a federal cocaine conspiracy conviction.

On February 11, 2004, PIMENTEL-SOTO entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr. to an indictment charging him with conspiring to distribute a half-kilo of cocaine in New Hampshire between 1998 and 2002. Judge DiClerico detained PIMEMTEL-SOTO without bail pending his June 17, 2004 sentencing hearing.

At today's sentencing, Judge DiClerico imposed a sentence of 37 months imprisonment followed by a 3-year period of supervised release during which PIMENTEL-SOTO's behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation. PIMENTEL-SOTO also faces deportation to his native Dominican Republic.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case demonstrates our Office's commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, and especially those who transport drugs into New Hampshire's southern tier over the Massachusetts border. This case is a prime example of the effectiveness of DEA's Cross Border Initiative. I will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts."

The conviction resulted from an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration's Cross Border Initiative (CBI), a Task Force based in Lowell, Massachusetts made up of federal agents from the DEA, FBI, IRS, and local police departments from northern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire including the Salem, New Hampshire Police Department. The CBI's primary focus is drug trafficking over the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDEF").